

CHAMPVA POLICY MANUAL

CHAPTER: 2
SECTION: 27.3
TITLE: COLLAGEN IMPLANTATION

AUTHORITY: 38 USC 1713; 38 CFR 17.270(a) and 17.272(a)

RELATED AUTHORITY: 32 CFR 199.4(c)(2) and (e)(8)

TRICARE POLICY MANUAL: Chapter 3, Section 2.2

I. EFFECTIVE DATE

July 4, 1984

II. PROCEDURE CODE(S)

11950-11954

III. DESCRIPTION

A. Collagen implant is a purified material derived from cattle skin dispersed in a saline solution with a local anesthetic. There are two types of collagen implants, non-cross linked collagen implants (i.e., Zyderm, Zyplast) and cross linked collagen implants (Kerogen). Both types of collagen implants are approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

B. Collagen implantation involves injecting collagen implant under the skin. Non-cross linked collagen implantation is used to restore the natural contour to skin which has been damaged by age, trauma, disease, or congenital anomalies. Cross linked collagen implantation is used to restore natural contour of the skin damaged by age, trauma, disease or congenital anomalies and, is also used for under the skin augmentation of soft tissues beneath keratotic lesions, such as corns or calluses, of the foot.

IV. POLICY

A. Non-cross linked and cross linked collagen implantation by injection is an appropriate form of reconstructive surgery. Collagen implantation may be cost shared.

B. For further indications regarding Collagen Implants, refer to [Chapter 2, Section 33.3](#), *Collagen Implantation for Incontinence*.

V. EXCLUSIONS

A. Non-cross linked and cross linked collagen implantations by injection performed primarily for psychological reasons or to correct minor dermatological blemishes, marks or anatomical anomalies, or to correct conditions resulting from the aging process are not covered.

B. Cross linked collagen implantation used in the treatment of foot disorders is considered experimental (unproven) and cannot be cost shared under the CHAMPVA Program.

END OF POLICY